The following is claimed:

1. A method for managing a remote data processing system via a communications network, the method comprising:

communicating with a remote data processing system associated with a trading partner on at least one technical parameter of the remote data processing system;

receiving a report message on the at least one technical parameter via the communications network; and

interpreting the report message for presentation on a user interface to coordinate the management of the at least one technical parameter for trading partners within a trading group.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the communicating comprises polling a remote business-to-business server as the remote data processing system to obtain the at least one technical parameter concerning an operational status of at least one of software and hardware of the remote business-to-business server.

3. The method according to claim 1 wherein the communicating comprises polling a remote business-to-business server at the remote data processing system to obtain the at least one technical parameter of at least one of software and hardware of the remote business-to-business server.

4. The method according to claim 1 further comprising presenting the report message on the user interface for review.

5. The method according to claim 1 wherein the at least one technical parameter comprises one or more of the following: hardware specifications of the remote data processing system, hardware specifications of a base data processing system, software specifications of the remote data processing system, software specifications of the base data processing system, an installed version of a remote software module, an installed version of a base software module, an installed type of remote software module, an installed type of base software module, operational status data, a performance metric data on performance of the remote data processing system, and a performance metric data on performance of the base data processing system.

6. The method according to claim 1 wherein the at least one technical parameter comprises operational status data of at least one of the remote data processing system, a base data processing system, and the communications network.

7. A method for managing a remote data processing system via a communications network, the method comprising:

receiving a report message containing technical parameter data on a remote data processing system via the communications network;

retrieving reference technical parameter data from a reference parameters database based on the report message; and

determining whether the received technical parameter data of the report data message complies with the retrieved reference technical parameter data.

8. The method according to claim 7 further comprising the step of:

polling a remote data processing system associated with a trading partner on the at technical parameter data of the remote data processing system.

9. The method according to claim 7 further comprising:

sending an upgrade software module to the remote data processing system if the same types of software modules are not specified in the reference technical parameter data and the received technical parameter data.

10. The method according to claim 9 further comprising:

installing the upgrade software module after receipt of confirmation that a requisite hardware upgrade for supporting the upgrade software module has been successfully completed.

11. The method according to claim 7 further comprising:

delaying a transmission of an upgrade software module to the remote data processing system if the same types of software modules are not specified in the reference technical parameter data and the received technical parameter data and if the remote data processing system requires a hardware upgrade to support the upgrade software module.

12. The method according to claim 7 further comprising:

sending an upgrade software module to the remote data processing system along with a wait flag if the same types of software modules are not specified in the reference technical

parameter data and the received technical parameter data and if the remote data processing system requires a hardware upgrade to support the upgrade software module.

13. The method according to claim 7 further comprising:

sending a desired version of an upgrade software module to the remote data processing system if the same versions of software modules are not specified in the reference technical parameter data and the received technical parameter data.

14. The method according to claim 13 further comprising:

installing the desired version of the upgrade software module after receipt of confirmation that a requisite hardware upgrade for supporting the desired version of the upgrade software module has been successfully completed.

15. The method according to claim 7 further comprising:

delaying a transmission of a desired version of an upgrade software module to the remote data processing system if the same versions of software modules are not specified in the reference technical parameter data and the received technical parameter data and if the remote data processing system requires a hardware upgrade to support the desired version of the upgrade software module.

16. The method according to claim 7 further comprising:

sending a desired version of an upgrade software module to the remote data processing system along with a wait flag if the same versions of software modules are not specified in the reference technical parameter data and the received technical parameter data

and if the remote data processing system requires a hardware upgrade to support the desired version of the upgrade software module.

17. The method according to claim 7 further comprising:

revising the reference parameters database such that a reference configuration is defined by the technical parameter data and includes a new feature for installation at the remote data processing system.

18. A system for managing a remote data processing system via a communications network, the system comprising:

a managing communications interface for supporting communication with a remote data processing system associated with a trading partner on at least one technical parameter of the remote data processing system;

a monitor for receiving a report message on the at least one technical parameter via the communications network; and

an interpreter for interpreting the report message for presentation on a user interface.

19. The system according to claim 18 wherein the remote data processing system comprises a remote business-to-business server.

20. The system according to claim 18 further comprising a presentation module for preparing a presentation of the report message on the user interface for review.

21. The system according to claim 18 wherein the technical parameters comprise one or more of the following: hardware specifications of the remote data processing system, hardware specifications of a base data processing system, software specifications of the remote data processing system, software specifications of the base data processing system, an

installed version of a remote software module, an installed version of a base software module, an installed type of remote software module, an installed type of base software module, operational status data, a performance metric data on performance of the remote data processing system, and a performance metric data on performance of the base data processing system.

22. The system according to claim 18 wherein the at least one technical parameter comprises operational status data.

23. A system for managing a remote data processing system via a communications network, the system comprising:

a monitor for receiving a report message on at least one technical parameter of a remote data processing system via the communications network;

a database manager for retrieving reference technical parameter data from a reference parameters database; and

a data processor for determining whether the received technical parameter data of the report data message complies with the retrieved reference technical parameter data.

24. The system according to claim 23 further comprising the step of:

a base communications interface adapted to poll the remote data processing system associated with a trading partner on the at least one technical parameter of the remote data processing system.

25. The system according to claim 23 further comprising:

a managing communications interface for sending an upgrade software module to the remote data processing system if the data processor determined that the same types of software modules are not specified in the reference technical parameter data and the received technical parameter data.

26. The system according to claim 23 wherein the data processor is coupled to a storage device, the storage device including at least one of a reference parameters database, a received parameters database, and an upgrade module database for storing upgrade software modules.

27. The system according to claim 23 wherein the database manager and a user interface support a user's revision reference parameters to add, delete, or modify a software feature of the remote data processing system.